## The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

9:00 PM

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation. More than the celebration of a birth, Christmas marks the mystery of the incarnation—God sharing our humanity. In this liturgy, Christ is present among us—as the word of hope and peace proclaimed to us, and as the word made flesh in communion. With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven," and like the shepherds we return to our homes, workplaces, and communities to tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

## The OFFERING will be received as you leave the church.

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### PRELUDE:

Bell Tree Solo On Christmas Night Arr. Lamb

Becky Quirk, handbells

Choir Advent Promise Schram

Jeannie Funk, flute

Organ Fantasy on Tempus Adest Floridum Keene

Stand

**GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)** 

HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Printed on the next page.





## **GREETING**

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **And also with you.**

**HYMN:** Angels We Have Heard on High Printed on the next page.





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen

Sit

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Originally, this poem was written to celebrate either the birth or the coronation of a new Davidic king. After the fall of Jerusalem, this poem came to be viewed as an expression of the hope that eventually God would raise up a new ruler who would possess the qualities described in the text.

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## **A** reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

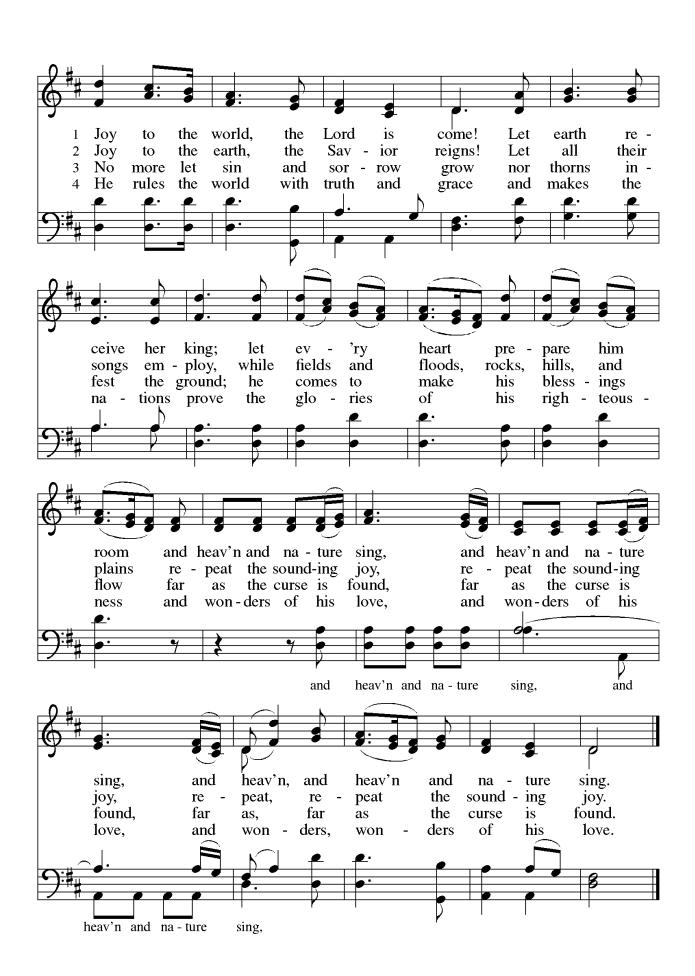
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 98:** *Joy to the World* 

Printed on the next page.



SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

The brief letter to Titus is concerned with matters regarding church leadership. Here the letter cites an early confession of faith as an example of sound Christian doctrine.

## **A** reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

- **A** The Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

**GRADUAL HYMN:** O Little Town of Bethlehem Printed on the next page.



GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth with reference to rulers of the world because this birth has significance for the whole earth, and conveys a divine offer of peace.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **©** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Weleck

#### Stand



#### **NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

- **P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- **©** We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

#### **PEACE**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** And also with you.

Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.

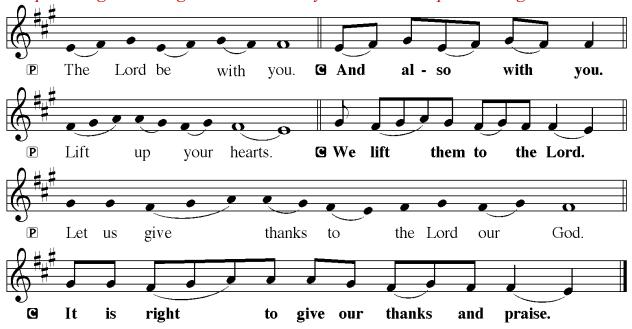
#### LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.



#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

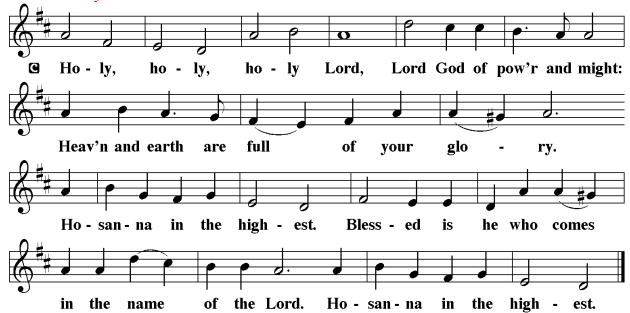
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:



The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS; BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING: TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY ♣ BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.

DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS,
AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING:
THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY + BLOOD,
SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- Our Father, who art in heaven,
  hallowed be thy name,
  thy kingdom come,
  thy will be done,
  on earth as it is in heaven.
  Give us this day our daily bread;
  and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

#### Sit

#### **COMMUNION**

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

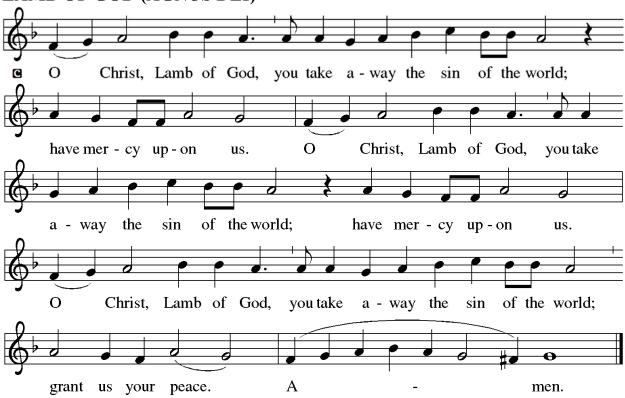
and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

## Music during Communion:

## LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



Sit

**ANTHEM:** All Is Well

Smith/Kirkpatrick, arr. Larson

Stand

#### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

- P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray.

O God of wonder, in this meal we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. May the light of Christ shine in all that we say and do until we come to the radiant vision of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

**HYMN:** Silent Night, Holy Night! (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!)

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#### **SENDING**

## **BLESSING (BENEDICTION)**

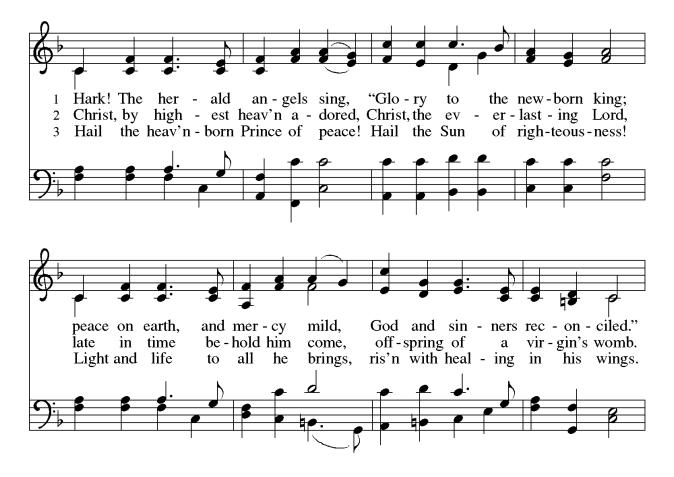
- May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child; and may almighty God, Father, 

  → Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL**

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





#### **OFFERING**

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

**POSTLUDE:** *Ding Dong Merrily On High* 

Lau



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## The Story of Our Hymns

Oh, come, all ye faithful
Anonymous Latin, 18th Century
Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880
Source: Murray's Hymnal, 1852

John Francis Wade, an Englishman who made his living by copying Gregorian chant and other music, was probably author as well as composer of this hymn. In spite of irregular scansion and lack of any rhyming, the hymn is perhaps the most popular Christmas hymn (as distinguished from carols).

Christmas is a great twelve (12) day celebration, beginning on 25 December and ending on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January. Outward signs of the celebration of Christmas should remain visible for all twelve (12) days: trees, wreaths and other decorations, music, gift-giving, joy.

The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

**The liturgical color white,** symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ, including Christmas.



## Worship Assistants

Ushers: Richard Allebach, Mike Beattie, Joe Cooney, and Karl Stefan

Lectors: Lessons: Karl Stefan Prayers: Alanna Jessee

Communion Assistant: Sherry Jessee

Altar Guild: Linda Romano and Carol Gerhart

Offering Tabulation: John Kochel, Alison Fishell and Shane Elison

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by James and Sally Lorah in memory of their parents, the Lorahs and the Kunkels.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Karen McClain in honor of Laurie Mueller and all the members of the wonderful music program at Augustus.

<u>The Wreaths</u> that adorn the Chapel Doors are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones by Debra Augustine and Sally Sweeney.

<u>The Wreaths that adorn the outside doors</u> on our campus are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe Family.

There will be ONE service on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. This service is our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS From the Congregation of Augustus!

The staff and volunteers of Augustus would like to extend warm, blessed, and Merry Christmas Greetings to the community and their families. In celebration of the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, everyone will also receive a small gift, compliments of Augustus Lutheran Church. If you are looking to build a relationship with Christ and to be connected to a church family, we hope that you prayerfully consider joining Augustus Lutheran Church, its mission, and all it has to offer. From our church family to your family, we hope that "the God of hope fills you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)".

The multiple Christmas programs, advertisements, promotional, and campus-wide decorations have been provided to enhance your worship experience and were supplied by many internal organizations and committees, individual church members, and multiple community businesses who have united to make this event a success. The Outreach Committee would like to extend with much gratitude and appreciation to all the patrons and volunteers that made the event possible and ask that you continue to support your local community businesses, especially:

Print Copy Design: for assisting in creating and distributing advertisements Risher Van Horn: for exterior campus decorations

Best Version Media
Thrivent Financial
Peter Wentz Farmstead
The Word FM Radio
Great Songs of Faith Radio
The multiple and countless committees and individual members of Augustus.





# Poinsettias 2024

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Allebach in memory of loved ones.

Augustus Women of the ELCA given to the Glory of God in loving memory and in honor of all its members.

Mike and Laurel Beattie in memory of family and friends. Merry Christmas!

The Bergs to the Glory of God in honor of our children: Alisha, Lindsey, Emily, Michael, Julieann, and Justin.

Remembering SGT John T. Bubeck, KIA December 26, 2006, with love from the Bubeck family.

Donna and Joe Cooney

Elaine Johnston in loving memory of my husband and parents.

John and Marie Kochel in memory of our parents; Joseph and Elizabeth Julia, and Donald and Joan Kochel.

Pastors Martha and Howard Kriebel in gratitude for the musical ministry of Laurie Mueller.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of my parents, Tom and Anne Lachenmayer

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of Dorothy E. Keffer and Miriam Bennett.

Rosaria Lehman in memory of Stanley and Jeannette Lehman.

Rosaria Lehman in memory of Carlo and Rosina Riccitelli.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in memory of loved ones.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in honor of our grandchildren.

Pat and Tony Mancuso and Noi Tapunoi in memory of our parents.

Karen McClain in memory of grandparents Robert and Margeret Van Hee for their Christmas wedding anniversary.

Cathy Menendez in loving memory of parents Catherine and Robert Engel.

Bill and Minetta O'Boyle in memory of loved ones.

Dale, Patrick, and Brian O'Hara given to the Glory of God in loving memory of family and friends.

Richard and Dorothy Opperman in memory of the Opperman and Ramsey Families.

In loving memory of family from the Redeyoff Family.

Helen Schad in memory of our loved ones.

Deborah Scholl in loving memory of Nevin Scholl.

Susan Snow and Barry Amole in honor of our children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

Sonya Sowards in thanksgiving for Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

Michael Van Blaricum in loving memory of Doris and Herb Van Blaricum.

John and Charlotte Wentworth and family in loving memory of Leon and Leona Linsenbigler and John and Mary Wentworth.







